

Serial No. 09/726,142

Cancellation of these claims has not necessitated an amendment to the inventorship of this Application.

II. OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS:

The Examiner objected to the drawings for lacking reference numerals. The Applicant has submitted a revised set of drawings with the proposed changes indicated in red ink. In addition, a substitute set of drawings with the changes in black is also enclosed.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by US Statutory Registration No. H526 (Miller). The invention in Miller provides a box for housing sensitive electronic equipment formed from Kevlar in an epoxy resin with a copper EMI reflective layer applied thereto. Specifically, however, the Miller reference discloses the formation of the substrate box using a compression molding or pultrusion method where layers of Kevlar fibers are layered up with coatings of epoxy resin and pressed into the desired shape as the epoxy cures. Specifically, Miller identifies injection molding as being inappropriate for use in the disclosed invention (Col. 7, lines 14-22). In addition, there is no disclosure within the Miller reference describing an injection molded polymer thermoplastic material that has thermally conductive properties.

As amended, the method of the present invention provides for the formation of the part through the injection molding of a polymer thermoplastic loaded with thermally conductive fillers to provide a net shape molded part that is subsequently plated. The use of injection molding as the process to form the part enables complex geometries to be formed directly and integrally within the part. For example, as shown in the figures, complex channels 11 can be easily formed to suit the application requirements at hand. Such injection molding results in a net-shape molded part that does not require any further processing. In contrast, the laid-up formation of the part in Miller requires expensive and time consuming machining in order to form the part into a configuration suitable for use.

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Since Miller fails to teach net-shape injection molding of the part, it cannot anticipate the Applicant's claimed invention as amended. Therefore, the Applicant's invention is patentable under §102.

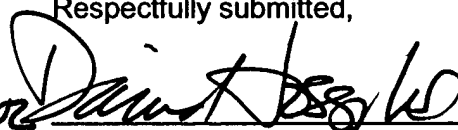
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, claims 1-15 are believed to be in condition for allowance and the application ready for issue.

Corresponding action is respectfully solicited.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #02-0900.

Respectfully submitted,

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David R. Josephs, Esq.
Reg. No. 34,632

BARLOW, JOSEPHS & HOLMES, Ltd.
101 Dyer Street, 5th Floor
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 273-4446 (tel)
(401) 273-4447 (fax)
drj@barjos.com

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ATTACHMENT A

Claims with markings to show changes made.

9. (Amended) A method of forming a thermally conductive part, comprising the steps of:

injection molding a part of a thermally conductive composite material into a net shape molded configuration, said composite material including a polymer base matrix with a thermally conductive filler material loaded therein; and

applying a metallic coating over said part.